

Show of Hands

Fairfax County Public Library Volunteer Newsletter



Winter 2005

Celebrating Those Who Care!

This is the season for celebrations. And as the New Year begins, I definitely want to celebrate the volunteers who help the Fairfax County Public Library flourish. Artists, computer experts, gardeners, retired staff and many others decorate buildings; maintain databases; demonstrate new technology to the public and staff; weed Library grounds; check books in and out; provide reference service to the public; mend books; answer phones; keep books in order and perform many other tasks.

Volunteers at the Fairfax County Public Library's 21 branches, Technical Operations and Library Administration gave more than 169,000 hours of service at Library branches and offices last year. "Throughout my life I've seen the difference volunteering efforts can make in people's lives," Jimmy Carter, U.S. volunteer extraordinaire, once said. "I know the personal value of a local volunteer." We agree. Your worth can be measured in much more than dollars and cents.

We value the more than 3,000 volunteers who offered their skill and time in 2004. This past year, you contributed to the world of libraries in so many ways.

Volunteers worked on check-out and information desks; kept shelves in order as part of our Adopt-a-Shelf program; beautified our outdoor landscapes; coordinated English conversation programs; researched grants; led book discussion groups; coordinated used book sales and so much more.

We believe there is no task that can't be performed by a qualified volunteer and you have proved us right. Our challenge is to keep aware of the knowledge, skills and abilities available in our community and to explore new ways to involve you in every phase of library service now and in the future.

We also know that the Library can benefit volunteers as much as their time helps us. From our teens who are practicing real-world skills to the octogenarian volunteers who enjoy sharing their life experiences, volunteering is a two-way avenue.

Thanks for all that you do. Have a great new year at the Library!



Library Director
Edwin S. Clay III

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Fairfax County Public Library



Show of Hands is published by the Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035, 703-324-3100. Contact the Director of Volunteer Programs, Kate Wanderer, at 703-324-8332 or kate.wanderer@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit the Library's Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

♿ Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.

VolunteerFest® at the Library

This spring, customers at the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale will enjoy blooming azaleas and daffodils, thanks to landscape volunteers who donated their time on October 23, 2004 during Volunteer Fairfax's 10th annual VolunteerFest®. On the same day, at the Kings Park Library in Burke, volunteers from the Organization of Chinese Americans became experts in the Dewey Decimal system, as they put three quarters of the branch's non-fiction books in order. At the nearby Pohick Regional Library, also in Burke, another group of landscape volunteers transplanted daylilies, pruned juniper bushes and tidied the branch's grounds.

In all, six Library branches hosted volunteers from such organizations as Jack and Jill and the United Way for the annual event which celebrates national Make a Difference Day. Hundreds of volunteers in Fairfax County joined more than three million throughout the country for a day of volunteering.

At the George Mason Regional Library, six teen volunteers dug holes and planted 21 azaleas, 83 liriopse (a border plant) and 600 daffodil bulbs (in clumps of 30) in less than four hours. The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library contributed funds for the beautification project and staff worked with a local landscaping company to select the appropriate plants.



"We look forward to seeing new flowers in the spring and already enjoyed the color from the azaleas – a variety that blooms twice a year," said Debbie King, branch manager.

At the Kings Park Library, eight volunteers donned complimentary volunteer shirts before heading to the



shelves to straighten books and make sure they were in order. In four hours, the group, which included many from the Organization of Chinese Americans, had shelf-read much of the non-fiction book section. "We benefited enormously from our volunteers," says Sue Lem, the page

supervisor at Kings Park. "The shelves were in good order and that made it so much easier to shelve additional books and to find reserved books quickly."

Volunteering was a family affair at the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. VolunteerFest® attracted nine members from the same family, including relatives visiting from out of town. "They did a great job!" says Jerry Herrera, circulation manager at Richard Byrd, of the group's efforts to remove leaves and debris from the Library branch's grounds.

A total of 36 volunteers tackled the grounds at the Pohick Regional Library. These included a Jack and Jill group for a total of 22 youngsters and 14 adults. Coordinated by longtime landscape volunteer Beth Smith, the volunteers dug up daylilies; bagged some for delivery to other Library branches; moved others to a new and less crowded area; and replanted some as a border to the branch's cobblestone drive-through. The group contributed almost 100 hours of service.

"The front landscaping and staff parking lot look so much more pleasant, clean and safe," says Carolyn Koehler, Pohick branch manager. "A whole new group of citizens can take personal pride in the beauty of our library branch grounds."

Other projects included a group of volunteers who helped rearrange the Young Adult section and put shelves in order at the Reston Regional Library and 14 volunteers from United Way who scheduled a "Day of Caring" on November 12 at the Martha Washington Library and tidied the shelves. Several even returned later to finish up their assigned sections. "It was a very successful day," said Sue Guignard, the volunteer coordinator at the Martha Washington Library.

Teen Volunteer Fairs

The Library shared its wealth of volunteers with other community organizations at two teen volunteer fairs in October. More than 100 teens and their parents attended an event at the Chantilly Regional Library on October 4, 2004 and another 228 visited a similar fair at the Pohick Regional Library on October 7.

Students were able to talk with individuals from such local organizations as the Northern Virginia Family Services Clock Tower Thrift Store; Food for Others; Clean Fairfax Council; Crosslink International; FACETS; Fairfax ReLeaf; Capital Area Community Food Bank; Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center; Northern Virginia Conservation Trust; South Run Recreation Center; People for the Understanding, Respect and Rescue of Animals; Northern Virginia Training Center; EcoStewards Alliance; Alternative House and others.

"Many teens signed up on the spot for volunteer positions," said Mary Alice Giarda, who organized the fair at the Pohick Regional Library.



Teens learn about community volunteer opportunities at the Pohick Regional Library Teen Volunteer Fair on October 7, 2004.

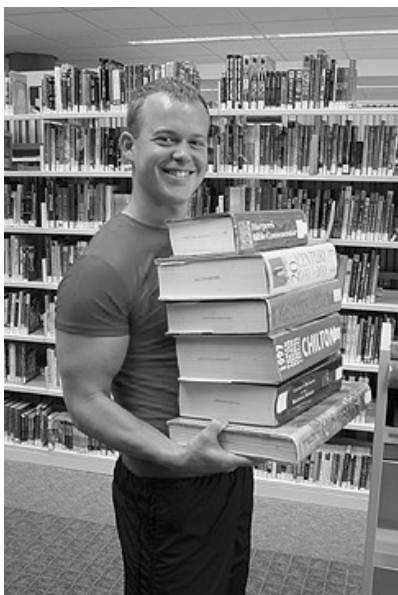
A Crosslink representative talks with teens during the Chantilly Regional Library Teen Volunteer Fair on October 4, 2004



On Parade

Peter Rabbit, Pippi Longstockings, The Giving Tree and a fairy tale princess greeted children and adults during the 13th annual Centreville Day parade on September 11, 2004. Taking a break from their usual tasks, four teen volunteers donned disguises and joined the staff of the Centreville Regional Library to distribute bookmarks and enthusiasm to parade route spectators. One volunteer also rolled and tied 2,000 parchment maps that were sold as a fund-raiser as a part of the festivities.

"The community not only enjoyed the parade, but benefited in numerous ways because of the dedication of our volunteers," said Royce Ann Zivan, assistant circulation manager and volunteer coordinator at the Centreville Regional Library.



Books Build Biceps

While the Library would never overexert our volunteers, for those of you who want to tone muscles, here's another advantage to donating some time at your local branch.

The September 19, 2004 *Washington Post* ran an article about the growing trend in the publishing industry of producing hefty books. Some can weigh up to 27 pounds, and the heaviest title on record is a work by Michael Hawley tipping the scales at 133 pounds.

The Library invited two professional weight-lifting instructors to hoist a few of our bigger books. Teri Konieczny, the group exercise director of Gold's Gym in Chantilly, worked her quadriceps while lunging with several tomes, including *The Complete Work of Michelangelo* and *Chronicle of the 20th Century*. Matthew Ivey, an Elite Personal Trainer at Gold's, held a copy of *The Professional Chef* while exercising his back. "This is hard!" he remarked.

Mathew Ivey, a personal trainer at Gold's Gym in Chantilly, and some hefty reading.

Our volunteers are our best recruiters! Please help us advertise our opportunities by clipping this list and sharing it with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, workplace volunteer programs, school, clubs or houses of worship — wherever someone may be able to help.



Fairfax County Public Library Volunteer Opportunities - Winter 2005

Access Services (Fairfax County Government Center): As a cassette player technician, assist in the repair of four-track cassette players. A commitment of four hours per week for one year is requested. Minimum age 18. Qualifications include: Experience in simple repair of electronic equipment; manual dexterity; attention to detail; neatness; ability to read repair manuals, schematics and parts lists/diagrams; use voltmeters, test tapes and hand tools; and audio and visual acuity. Beena.Pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-324-8380.

Administration (Fairfax County Government Center): Assist with clerical tasks (filing, photocopying, word processing, preparing mailings) for various departments during weekday daytime hours. Minimum age 16. Linda.Gifford@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-324-8324.

Branch Library Opportunities:

- ▶ Adopt-a-Shelf (organize a section of Library branch shelves, flexible schedule). Ages 12 and up, or volunteer as a family.
- ▶ Provide one-on-one Internet or Web Page design tutorials (in English or Spanish). Adults.

▶ Learn the Library's circulation system and help check in books or locate items on reserve for customers. Adults.

▶ Help a Children's Department by preparing program materials or assisting the Children's Librarian at a program. Ages 14 and up.

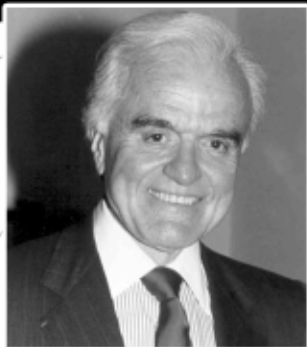
▶ Teach a series of Saturday classes in XML, MS Office, or other technologies. Adults.

▶ With MLS degree, support for Information Department in providing reference service. Library school students are also welcomed.

▶ Assist an English Conversation Group Volunteer in offering weekly informal conversation practice for new Americans.

Training is available for all positions. For information on these and other opportunities, contact Kate Wanderer at: Kate.Wanderer@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-8332. To visit the volunteer section of the Library's Web site or fill out an online application, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library, click on About the Library, then on Volunteer Program.

P E R S P E C T I V E S S E R I E S



JACK VALENTI

former president of the
Motion Pictures Association of America

Hollywood: Then and Now
Monday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.



BOB SCHIEFFER

CBS News veteran

Face the Nation: My Favorite
Stories From the First 50 Years
Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.



ANDREA MITCHELL

CBS News correspondent

The View From Washington
Monday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Books available for sale and signing at the March and April events courtesy of Borders — Tysons Corner.
Free tickets available at the Alden Theatre at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of each event. Limit of two tickets per person. For information: Alden Theatre -703-790-0123 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Cosponsored by the Alden Theatre and made possible by the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc.